

bamboos, some of which are hardy enough to grow in the climate of Peking, which resembles that of Philadelphia; a wild oat from the dry elevated portions of the Wutaishan, and soy beans, cowpeas, sorghums, cottons, and many other very valuable things from this great Klondike of new plant varieties, where almost every cultivator saves his own seeds and thus originates new strains.

Special mention should be made of an unusual piece of introduction work which Consul Magelssen, of Bagdad, carried out at our request, i. e., the securing and proper labeling of what may be considered one of the most successfully landed collections of Arabian date-palm suckers.

Through the increasingly large number of friends of plant introduction both abroad and at home a number of interesting things have been secured by correspondence: Cork acorns from southern Spain; a summer orange called the *Natsu mikan*, from Japan, which ripens in midsummer and is served on the tables of foreigners there just as the pomelo is in America; a collection of Indian green-manure and fodder plants from Nimboli; a broad-leaved variety of alfalfa from Elche, Spain; a collection of taros from Cochin China; a collection of rare sorghums from Entebbe, Uganda; the sugar palm from the East Indies; the white Alfonso mango from Bombay; a unique collection of wild and cultivated potatoes from the archipelago of Chiloé, in southern Chile, the home of the potato, and from the adjoining mainland, made by Mr. José D. Husbands; and a collection of Guatemalan cacti and a Central American dahlia secured for us by the late Prof. W. A. Kellerman just before his unfortunate death in the Guatemalan forest.

It should be repeated that the seeds and plants here listed are not necessarily for distribution, nor is it always possible to supply those who desire the various things listed here with what they want; but it is the aim of the office to get anything that a plant breeder or plant experimenter wants, whether it appears in these inventories or not, provided it is not already on the market, in which case the applicant will be referred to the catalogues which advertise it. To introduce a plant and get it into the regular trade channels without in any way interfering with the legitimate business in plant novelties which the seedsmen and nurserymen of the country are so well carrying on is one of the objects of our work.

The botanical determinations of the material are, as in the previous inventory, those of Messrs. W. F. Wight and H. C. Skeels, while the inventory has been prepared by Miss Mary A. Austin.

DAVID FAIRCHILD,

*Agricultural Explorer in Charge.*

OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION,

*Washington, D. C., October 7, 1908.*